(e) Government of Afghanistan considers capacity building as a foremost priority for the reconstruction of the country and has welcomed India's assistance in this regard. As part of rebuilding Afghanistan's institutional capacity, training for teachers, diplomats, journalists, judicial officials, women entrepreneurs, fligh engineers, doctors, paramedics, police officers and officials of Ministry of Light Industry and Geodesy and Cartography Department were conducted at various institutions in India.

Revalidation of Diplomate Passports

1735. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue/revalidation of Official/Diplomatic Passport and Visa Note to Secretaries to Government of India from Ministry of Science and Technology has been done after they obtained political clearance and clearance of Screening Committee of Secretaries or Prime Minister.

(b) if so, the details thereof including countries visited, countries transited and purpose and duration of visit for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, whether above visits were private or official; and

(d) if not, the details of issue/revalidation of Official/Diplomatic Passport and Visa Note to above Secretries without approval of Screening Committee of Secretaries or Prime Minister for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

India's stand after Tsunami

1736. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government in the aftermath of the Tsunami disaster in the South Asian region to establish its position as a benefactor in the region and to prevent outside powers to get foothold in India's backyard;

(b) the expenditure involved; and